UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: November 25, 1963

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY
WAGONER CARR
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL - TEXAS
STATLER HOTEL, 3 PM, 11/25/63

The captioned press conference lasted from five to seven minutes. According to our sources, the Attorney General of Texas was obviously unprepared inasmuch as he hastily read a scrawled written statement of brief nature. He then ran out in the hallway in an obvious attempt to get away from reporters. They caught up with him in the corridor of the mezzanine and started shooting questions at him.

The Attorney General's statement was as follows:

"Because of the shocking assassination of President Kennedy and the attempted assassination of Governor John Connally and the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, there is an obvious need for a court of inquiry to be convened in Texas.

"The top members of my staff and one or more competent and eminent jurists and lawyers will conduct the court of inquiry. Top level local and state authorities will assist in the court of inquiry. Federal officials will be asked to cooperate. Full reports will be sent to the Justice Department. I want to emphasize that the court of inquiry will represent a full complete and impartial investigation."

The questions asked were as follows:

(1) Are you covering everything in the court of inquiry, including the murder of Oswald?
Carr answered this in the affirmative.

(2) Why are you pulling a "grandstand play" (meaning the press conference).
Carr answered that Texas law provides him the authority to convene a court of inquiry and he personally feels it needs to be done.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
1 - Mr. Morrell
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(3) Did you talk with the FBI prior to deciding upon a court of inquiry?
Carr merely answered he planned to ask for the FBI's cooperation.

(4) Will your court of inquiry replace or stop the FBI investigation?
Carr answered the FBI investigation has nothing to do with his court of inquiry and reiterated he will ask for FBI cooperation.

(5) When are you going to start your court of inquiry?
Carr stated he was returning to Texas immediately to set up the court of inquiry.

(6) Will you cooperate with the new Administration?
Carr answered that he will keep the Administration advised.
He also indicated that the hearings would be public in nature.

Carr then backed away from the reporters and left.

Two of our newspaper sources have advised us that the entire corps of newspaper people are extremely angry at the way Carr handled himself and at the manner in which he attempted to evade questions.

ACTION:

For information.